

build upon our economic stimulus package by passing an energy bill that is designed to lower prices at the gas pump, which are currently over \$3 a gallon. The price of oil is hovering around \$100 a barrel and many predict that if we don't act now, it's going much higher.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act extends and expands tax incentives for renewable energies including renewable electricity and fuel, hybrid cars and energy-efficient homes and appliances.

By investing in renewable energy, we can take another critical step in reducing our Nation's dependence on foreign oil. And at a time when our economy is struggling to produce new high-paying jobs, this legislation will help create hundreds of thousands of new green jobs in renewable energy that will help us provide a cleaner environment for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is also fully paid for by repealing \$18 billion in tax subsidies that big oil companies continue to receive despite record earnings. It's time Congress modernizes our Nation's energy policy by passing this important bill regardless of President Bush's opposition.

CUBAN PEOPLE DESERVE FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Fidel Castro has stepped down as President and dictator of Cuba and handed over his communist rule to his brother Raul. The news of Castro's resignation was met with cautious optimism by many who see this as an opportunity for the Cuban people to build a new and free society. However, it appears that for now the Castro family elite will continue to reign in a communist state and stifle the voices of reform.

Today, political prisoners remain housed in inhumane conditions. The current Cuban legal system that authorizes the arrest of people for the crime of pre-criminal activity must be drastically reformed. The Cuban people deserve to live in a democratic society based on the rule of law that recognizes the rights of its citizens to the freedoms of speech, religion, and association.

I am inspired by the phenomenally successful and patriotic Cuban American business leaders in the community I represent, such as Louis and Nena Gonda, who have always kept alive the ideals of a free Cuba to provide opportunity for the people of Cuba.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

WISCONSIN NEEDS FEDERAL HELP WITH SNOWFALL EMERGENCY

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, more snow is blanketing Milwaukee and southern Wisconsin, the latest in an unending series of snowfall that has overwhelmed municipalities in Wisconsin this winter. By mid-February, Milwaukee had received over 75 inches of snow compared to 33 inches at this time last year. Madison, our State capital, has already broken its record for the snowiest winter.

A few weeks ago, one storm dumped at least a foot of snow in southern Wisconsin, including 17 inches in downtown Milwaukee. Just outside of Madison, some 2,000 cars were stranded on a highway for up to 12 hours. Last week, Wisconsin's Governor, Jim Doyle, requested Federal assistance to help Wisconsin deal with snow removal and other emergency costs.

Yesterday, the entire Wisconsin delegation sent a letter urging the President to approve this request. Mr. Speaker, Wisconsinites are proud of our ability to handle snow; but in this case, Federal help is sorely needed and should be swiftly approved and provided.

PASS THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE BILL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic majority's decision to ignore the requests of our intelligence community has endangered our national security. Why do House Democrats refuse to give the intelligence community the tools they need to protect American lives?

A strong bipartisan bill passed the Senate by a vote of 68-29. The bill also was supported by the administration, the intelligence community, as well as the majority of Members of the House. Yet the Democrats' leaders refused to bring the bill up for a vote.

Congress has no greater responsibility than to ensure that our intelligence-gathering laws are strong and our Nation is safe from future attacks. Let's hope, for the sake of our country, the Democratic leaders will decide before it's too late to pass the bipartisan Senate bill.

HONORING ESSIE MAE REED DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. CASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, here on Black History Month, I'm very pleased to salute Essie Mae Reed from Tampa, Florida, a true community hero. Essie Mae Reed has been an outspoken voice for the poor and struggling families in Tampa for decades. As a resident of the Central Park Village housing project in

1967, she created the first tenants association and ultimately advocated on behalf of thousands of families in Tampa.

Essie Mae Reed established the Boys and Girls Club. She ensured children could go to the community college for enrichment programs. She publicized unsanitary conditions. She ensured children will receive lunch in schools. She fought to have hot water heaters installed in public housing. She forced a change in public housing policy that barred single mothers from public housing.

Essie Mae Reed was the first African American woman to run for the Tampa City Council; and when they charged her a substantial qualifying fee, she challenged it, and the Federal district court threw it out and ruled it unconstitutional.

Essie Mae Reed is a Tampa and American treasure. She stood up for so many that didn't have a voice and improved lives throughout our community.

DEPUTY CRAIG MILLER—ANOTHER CASUALTY OF A WEAK U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the people of Houston, Texas, are in mourning today because they have lost another brave protector of our community. While working undercover surveillance on February 21, Harris County sheriff deputy Craig Miller was killed when an 18-wheeler darted onto I-10 in Houston and recklessly drove across three lanes of the freeway crashing into Miller's SUV. Miller's vehicle became airborne, and he was fatally injured in the crash.

Narcotics Officer Miller was 43 years of age, married to Michelle and has two young children. Friends described him as a comedian that could have been a regular on Saturday Night Live. Deputy Miller grew up in Houston and attended Stratford High School. He enjoyed protecting and serving the people of the Houston area.

So as peace officers wear the black band of sacrifice across their badges in honor of Deputy Craig Miller, we remember that lawmen are all that separate civilization from the uncivilized.

The driver of the 18-wheeler was charged with negligent homicide. He is a foreign national and his legal status is undetermined. Deputy Miller is yet another recent death in a series of Houston area lawmen that have been killed by foreign nationals. Deputy Miller is a casualty of a weak, chaotic, and inconsistent and overbroad immigration policy this country has.

And that's just the way it is.

FISA IS STILL IN FULL EFFECT

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)